

Mark 9:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Analysis

Jesus concluded: 'Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another' (Καλὸν τὸ ἄλας· ἐὰν δὲ τὸ ἄλας ἄναλον γένηται, ἐν τίνι αὐτὸ ἀρτύσετε; ἔχετε ἐν ἑαυτοῖς ἄλα, καὶ εἰρηνεύετε ἐν ἀλλήλοις). Salt represents distinctive Christian character—purity, preservation, seasoning. Salt that loses saltiness (becomes 'unsalted,' analon, ἄναλον) is useless, fit only to be trampled (Matthew 5:13). Disciples must maintain spiritual vitality and moral distinctiveness. 'Have salt in yourselves' means cultivate grace, holiness, and covenant faithfulness. The connection to 'have peace one with another' recalls the chapter's beginning—disciples argued about greatness (v. 34), Jesus taught humility (vv. 35-37). Salt preserves peace by purifying pride, envy, and selfish ambition. Sanctified believers live peaceably because self-interest has been 'salted'—purified through trials and self-denial.

Historical Context

Salt was valuable commodity in ancient world—used for preservation (no refrigeration existed), seasoning, and purification. Dead Sea provided abundant salt, but it could become contaminated with minerals making it ineffective. Jesus' question 'wherewith will ye season it?' highlights impossibility—salt that's not salty can't be restored. This warns against apostasy—professing Christians who abandon faith demonstrate they never possessed genuine salvation (1 John 2:19). The command to 'have peace one with another' connects to earlier teaching about

receiving children (v. 37), not hindering others (vv. 38-42), and dealing radically with sin (vv. 43-48). Church unity requires humility, purity, and mutual care. Paul echoed this: 'Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt' (Colossians 4:6). Christians preserve culture and promote peace through distinctive godly character.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does salt's preservative and seasoning qualities teach about Christians' distinctive influence in society?
2. How does 'having salt in yourselves' (personal holiness) contribute to 'peace with one another' (corporate unity)?

Interlinear Text

καλὸν	τὸ	ἄλας	έὰν	δὲ	τὸ	ἄλας	ἄναλον	γένηται
Good	the	salt	if	however	the	salt	unsalty	becomes
G2570	G3588	G217	G1437	G1161	G3588	G217	G358	G1096
ἐν	τίνι	αὐτὸ	ἀρτύσετε	ἔχετε	ἔαυτοῖς	ἄλα	καὶ	
with	what	it	will you season	Have	yourselves	salt	and	
G1722	G5101	G846	G741	G2192	G1438	G217	G2532	
είρηνεύετε		ἀλλήλοις						
be at peace		with one another						
G1514		G240						

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 4:6 (Parallel theme): Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Romans 12:18 (Peace): If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Matthew 5:13 (Good): Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Hebrews 12:14 (Peace): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

2 Corinthians 13:11 (Peace): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Philippians 1:27 (Parallel theme): Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Job 6:6 (Parallel theme): Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

Ephesians 4:29 (Good): Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

1 Thessalonians 5:13 (Peace): And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Colossians 3:12 (Parallel theme): Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;